UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/99
S/1998/344
23 April 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 46 and 113 of the preliminary list*
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on 20 April 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under items 46 and 113 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Movses ABELIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 20 April 1998 by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Recently, the leadership of Azerbaijan has launched a new campaign of lies and slander against Armenia and its people.

At one moment Azerbaijan disseminates various false accusations, at another it puts forward absurd claims to the territory of almost the whole of our country, at yet others, as if in a mockery of history and common sense, it claims the Azerbaijani people to be a victim of genocide.

The aim of these propagandistic steps, taken at the State level, is to achieve a solution of the Karabakh problem in line with Azerbaijan's own scenario, and to attempt to erase from the memory of mankind the crime of genocide planned and committed against Armenians throughout the present century over the whole of the territory of Nagorny Karabakh, including its former capital, Shusha, as well as in Sumgait, Baku, Gyanja and other towns. Such propaganda also has an impact on the psychology of the Azerbaijani people, arousing unhealthy passions and unfounded hopes, and this in turn prevents the Azerbaijani leadership from pursuing flexible approaches in the negotiating process.

Armenia categorically condemns the destructive steps being taken by the Azerbaijani authorities, which are preventing the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Their position bears witness to the unrealistic intentions of the Azerbaijani side and calls in question the possibility of advancing the negotiating process.